



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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**FRAUD AGAINST ELDERLY
VICTIM**

Update (7/28/2012):

On June 27th, 2012, detectives from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit arrested another suspect in connection to the theft against the elderly victim. Tashau Edwards, B/F, 1/12/78, was arrested after she surrendered herself to detectives at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Edwards was employed by the elderly victim as a home health aide over the course of seven months, at the same time Byrd was employed by the victim. Detectives believe that Edwards conspired with Byrd and fraudulently stole \$46,520.00 from the victim as well.

It should be noted that the Fort Lauderdale Police Department worked with the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task force in order to locate and apprehend Byrd and Josephs on June 26th, 2012.

Edwards has been charged with one (1) count of Grand Theft on a Person 65 or Older and one (1) count of Exploitation of the Elderly. Edwards is currently being held in the custody of the Broward County Main Jail.

Detectives are concerned that Edwards could have possibly victimized other elderly people while acting as a home health aide, along with Byrd and Josephs, after she left the victim's employment. Detectives believe that Edwards has been employed as a home health aide since she left this victim's employment.

At this point, detectives believe that the total approximate theft from the victim was \$433,105.00. Anyone with further information regarding Edwards, Byrd, or Josephs is encouraged to contact Detective Amy Hoover at 954-828-5914.



Tashau Edwards

Original (7/27/2012):

On June 26th, 2012, detectives from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit arrested two suspects in connection to the fraudulent theft of money from an elderly woman. The suspects were employed by the victim as independent home health aides from January 2008 to March 2010. The victim is now ninety-nine (99) years old and was ninety-five (95) when the fraud started.

The suspects have been identified as Angela Byrd, B/F, 5/4/67, and Tanecia Josephs, B/F, 3/26/87. Both Byrd and Josephs have been taken into custody and are currently in the custody of the Broward County Main Jail.

Detectives received information regarding the fraud after the victim's family realized the victim was paying an exorbitant amount of money for her healthcare needs. Due to the physical condition of the victim, she required 24 hour care. Detectives learned that Byrd was employed by the victim as an independent home health aide over the course of twenty six months. During that time, Byrd fraudulently took a total of \$341,230.00 from the victim by having extra money added to her paycheck, as well as additional checks written out to her.

Detectives believe that Josephs may have covered for Byrd as a caretaker for the victim in 2008, for a period of less than one week, and fraudulently received \$45,355.00 in additional income. Detectives believe that Josephs was known to Byrd because Josephs was dating Byrd's son during the time frame.

Byrd and Josephs have each been charged with the following:

- 1 Count of Grand Theft on a Person 65 or Older
- 1 Count of Exploitation of the Elderly

Detectives believe that there may possibly be other vulnerable adults who were victimized by Byrd or Josephs. Detectives are urging anyone with information to contact Detective Amy Hoover at 954-828-5914 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.



Angela Byrd

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Tanecia Josephs